

CLAIMS

1. A dental power instrument, particularly an endodontic instrument, consisting of an active part (2) and, at the opposite end to said active part (2), a handle (3), which instrument is characterized in that said handle (3) of the dental instrument is provided with a rotary drive means (4) capable of meshing directly, when mounted in a head (5) of a handpiece, with a rotary drive means situated upstream of the head of the handpiece, said drive means (4) being retractable independently of said drive means of the head of the handpiece, and said drive means (4) having the same direction of rotation as the drive means of the head of the handpiece.
- 15 2. The dental power instrument as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it also comprises a shoulder (25) close to the rotary drive means (4), on the side nearest the active part (2) of the instrument (1).
- 20 3. The dental power instrument as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the drive means (4) located on the handle is a pinion.
- 25 4. A head of a handpiece for a dental instrument as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that it is provided with a bore (7) forming the housing of the handle (3) for a dental instrument (1) and with a means (8) of axial retractable retention of the handle of the instrument capable of being operated by the practitioner.
- 30 5. The head of a handpiece as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the retractable retention means (8) consists of a part (8a) projecting across the opening (7) of the housing, and in that this projecting part (8a) is connected to a ring (9) that can be moved

against the action of a restoring spring (10) and that is mounted concentrically on the outer periphery of the body (6) of the head (5).

6. The head of a handpiece as claimed in claim 5,
5 characterized in that said projecting part (8a) also comprises on its outer face a retraction slope (12) designed to engage with a combined profile on the handle (3) of the dental instrument (1) so that when the handle is inserted into the head of the handpiece,
10 the combined profile of the handle causes the retention means to retract.

7. The head of a handpiece as claimed in claim 5,
characterized in that the projecting part (8a) also comprises a horseshoe profile so as completely to fit
15 the shape of a shoulder (25) formed on the dental instrument.

8. The head of a handpiece as claimed in claim 4,
characterized in that the retention means (8) is a split spring ring (20) arranged on the head (5) of the handpiece in such a way that the ends (20a and 20b) of the split ring (20) project in the rest position into the mouth of the opening (7) of the housing of the handle (3) of the instrument (1) and in that this ring (20) is retractable under the action of a pushbutton
25 (22) located on top of the head (5).

9. The head of a handpiece as claimed in claim 8,
characterized in that each of the ends (20a and 20b) of the split ring (20) is provided with a retraction slope (23 and 24), these retraction slopes (23 and 24) being
30 designed to engage with the end of the handle (3) of the instrument (1) so as to push back and allow access to the housing (7) of the head.

10. The head of a handpiece as claimed in claim 8 or 9, characterized in that each end (20a and 20b) of the

- 13 -

split ring (20) also comprises a horseshoe profile so as completely to fit the shape of a shoulder (25) formed on the dental instrument.